

[23 February, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Losses in Konkan Railway

371. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the average loss per day in Konkan Railway;
- (b) total number of passengers travelling daily and the revenue realised from transportation every year;
- (c) what are the reasons for incurring heavy losses; and
- (d) the steps proposed to be taken to reduce the losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) The Corporation is able to meet its working expenses from the revenue generated. However, on account of provisions required to be made for the financing cost incurred on market borrowings during the construction phase and on depreciation, the Corporation is showing a loss in its Balance Sheet. The average loss per day in Konkan Railway based on the finalised account of 1999-2000 is Rs. 1.05 crore.

The number of passengers per day and the revenue from traffic is as follows:

	1998-99	1999-2000
Number of passengers carried per day	50,700	61,000
Traffic Earnings crore for the year	Rs. 80.62 crore	Rs. 118.13

The Corporation has made out a Business Plan enumerating various steps being taken to reduce the losses. These are as follows:

- (i) Augmentation of traffic earnings by carrying out a strong marketing drive.

(ii) Marketing its construction expertise by:

- Trying to bid for international contracts for Railway construction.
- Taking up specialised construction works such as highways and tunneling within the country.

(iii) Exploiting the potential of the optical fibre cable network laid by the Corporation.

(iv) Implementing the installation, after testing, of an Anti-Collision Device (ACD) developed by the KRC on the Indian Railway System.

Complimentary Rail Passes

372. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2970, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th December, 2000 and state:

(a) the details of journeys performed by recipients of complimentary cheque passes, giving the date of journey, Train No. and Name, Class and sector;

(b) whether it is a practice to provide tickets/complimentary passes for media representatives covering the Railway events like inauguration, etc.; and

(c) if so, on how many occasions have they been issued such passes, giving the details like names, dates, corresponding Train Nos., journey sectors, Class, etc. thereof during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.